

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



December 1993

Volume 6, Number 11

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

Call for Proposals for 1994/1995 Literacy Cost-Shared Projects

The B.C. Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the National Literacy Secretariat invite applications for 1994/1995 B.C. literacy cost-shared project funding.

Grants for adult literacy projects have been funded through a federal/provincial agreement since 1987. A total of 35 projects was funded in B.C. for 1993/94.

Groups eligible for funding include: provincially funded community colleges; school districts; First Nations Bands; and community groups such as literacy organizations, professional organizations, task forces, and registered societies.

Project categories are: development of learning materials; access and outreach; professional development for practitioners; research, coordination and information sharing; and public awareness.

The funders are especially interested in projects that:

- ❖ include extensive collaboration among community groups and/or colleges and community groups

- ❖ build on what has been done before
- ❖ address the needs of equity groups
- ❖ develop research and learning materials that make knowledge more accessible
- ❖ address the social, political and emotional aspects of literacy
- ❖ explore the connection between literacy and employment-related skills and training

A call for proposals and application package was distributed during the first week of December 1993.

Applications must be made on the new 1994/95 form. The deadline for submissions is February 25, 1994.

All applicants are advised to discuss proposal ideas with Patty Bossort, Cost Shared Projects Consultant, before submitting their applications (see contact information on next page). The role of the consultant is to "help applicants understand the guidelines and assist them in developing a strong proposal," and to provide

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information about each proposal to the two ministries involved and the review committees.

Application packages have been distributed to: deans and directors of college adult basic education (ABE) programs; ABE coordinators of school district continuing education programs; Literacy B.C.; the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.; Pacific Association of Continuing Education; the Association of First Nations Post Secondary Institutes; and First Nations coordinators at B.C. colleges.

Application packages are also available from:

Patty Bossort
Cost Shared Projects Consultant
4280 Windsor Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 4P4
Phone: 876-3780
Fax: 876-6780

Linda Hackett, Coordinator
Adult Literacy Contact Centre
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 684-0624 (Lower Mainland)
1-800-663-1293 (toll-free in B.C.)

Mary Waddington, Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour
Second Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1H8
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

New Federal Minister Responsible for Literacy

On November 4, 1993, Prime Minister Jean Chretien named the Honourable Joyce Fairbairn as Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister with special responsibility for literacy. In this capacity, Senator Fairbairn will work closely with the Minister of Human Resources Development, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, and other interested Ministers. She will be supported in her work by the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS), now situated in the Department of Human Resources Development. (Since the summer of 1993 the NLS has been assigned to the new department, Human Resources and Labour. The name of this department was changed on November 4, 1993 to Human Resources Development.)

After a career as a journalist, Fairbairn became Legislative Assistant to Prime Minister Trudeau in 1970. She served as his senior legislative advisor for 14 years, and also acted as Communications Coordinator in the Prime Minister's Office. She was appointed to the Senate for the province of Alberta in 1984 and has served on many Senate committees, including

the Senate Committee on Youth; and the Senate Standing Committees on Transportation and Communications; Foreign Affairs; and Agriculture and Forestry. She is also a founding member of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

In 1987, Senator Fairbairn initiated national debate in the Senate on literacy in Canada, and has remained an active advocate for this cause. ☐

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
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684-0624 Lower Mainland
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The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



Call for Presenters: ABEABC Conference

The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. (ABEABC) has issued a call for workshop presenters for its 1994 conference and annual general meeting.

The theme of the conference, to be held at Victoria's Ocean Pointe Resort April 20 - 23, 1994, is "Building Community Partnerships."

In keeping with the theme, conference organizers are asking presenters to submit workshop topics around questions such as: "What partnerships do we need? What is happening in your community now? How can we strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones? How can we improve inter-agency communications?"

Suggested presentation formats include lectures, panel discussions, participatory group sessions, and field trips.

The conference planning committee wants to include learners in all aspects of the conference and therefore encourages their involvement as presenters.

The committee also asks that proposals "please be respectful

of race, gender, and other sensitive issues."

The deadline for submissions is January 7, 1994.

For further information, or to obtain a presenters' submission form, contact:

Helen Thomas
ABEABC Conference Committee
c/o Victoria READ Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-7225
Fax: 386-8330

or:

Carol Duyf
ABEABC Conference Committee
c/o Victoria Native Friendship Centre
3rd Floor - 531 Yates Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1K7
Phone: 384-3211
Fax: 384-1586 ☐

International Reading Association Conference

"Addressing Society's Needs with Literacy" is the theme of the third North American Conference on Adult and Adolescent Literacy of the International Reading Association. The conference will take place in Washington, D.C. February 4 - 6, 1994.

Some of the conference strands will be: family literacy; learning disabilities; new readers; student assessment and evaluation; technology; and

workplace literacy. The conference will offer more than 100 workshops, symposia, panels, round-tables, and discussion luncheons.

The deadline for pre-registration is January 6, 1994.

For further information, contact:

Shirley Choo
Provincial Coordinator
International Reading Association
1784 Pepperidge Court
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 3V9
Phone: 420-7967 (home)

or:

Suzanne Snyder, Conference Coordinator
International Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road
PO Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139
U.S.A.
Phone: 1-300-731-1600, Ext. 231 ☐

* * * * * Season's Greetings, Newsletter Readers!

from the Adult Literacy
Contact Centre Staff:

Linda Hackett
Coordinator

Sandy Middleton
Information Officer

Nancy Richardson
Newsletter Reporter

Debra Mueller
Secretary

Miners' Training Funds Extended

Funding has been provided to ensure that 52 former mining employees in Fernie and Sparwood continue training in adult basic education and English Language Training at East Kootenay Community College.

The announcement was made by Dan Miller, Minister of Skills, Training and Labour on November 29, 1993.

The courses were initiated in May 1993 through federal funds from the local Canada Employment Centre. The funds enabled the College to offer the courses to Unemployment Insurance recipients who require upgrading before pursuing retraining.

The \$120,000 in provincial funding will enable the college to continue the courses for an additional four months and allow 12 of the students to gain Grade 12 equivalency.

Miller says the Ministry will conduct a further review in March 1994 "to determine the number of people who may need an extension in training."

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Community Literacy Needs Assessment Project Report

This report details a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project called, "Community Literacy Needs Assessment" which took place in three northern B.C. communities: Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Dawson Creek. The project was shared by Northern Lights College, the Dawson Creek Literacy Society, the Fort St. John Literacy Society, and the Fort Nelson Community Council for Literacy.

A literacy outreach worker conducted a needs assessment in each community. The three-volume report describes the differing needs in each region and outlines existing literacy programs and resources. According to David Thomas, outreach worker for the Fort St. John region, the research project identified several needs, including:

- ❖ the need for more services for aboriginal learners, second language learners, adults with special needs, and displaced workers
- ❖ the need for learners to network, and to be represented on advisory committees
- ❖ the need to track learners so they "can remain in the network"

❖ the need for workplace education information and programs, which was "expressed by several industries and their unionized workers."

The report is available (for the cost of photocopying) from:

Helena Bastedo, Assistant Principal
Northern Lights College
Fort St. John Campus
Box 1000
9820 - 120th Avenue
Fort St. John, B.C.
V1J 6K1
Phone: 785-6981
Fax: 785-1294

1994 Beginnings

Adult learners from 12 different literacy and adult basic education programs on Lower Vancouver Island are featured in this 1994 wall calendar. The calendar is a publication of the Wordstream Learner's Publishing Group, a project of the Victoria READ Society.

The learners' programs include those at Camosun College; Malaspina University College; the Victoria Native Friendship Centre; and Saanich School District No. 63.

Each month on the calendar is accompanied by a learner's story or poem and is illustrated with a photo of the learner's environment.

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Gillian Shirreff, one of the adult learners who is included in the publication, says, "The students who wrote in the calendar all struggled in school, but are now thinking positively about their ability."

Proceeds from sales of the calendar will support future Wordstream Learners' Publishing Group projects.

The calendar is available, at a cost of \$5.00, from:

Wordstream Learners' Publishing Group
Victoria READ Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-7225
Fax: 386-8330

Linking Partners in Literacy: A Model for Local Professional Development

This publication is the product of the 1992/93 B.C. cost-shared project, "Literacy Professional Development Network," by Project Literacy Victoria. The 106-page booklet describes the project's eight PD workshops presented in the Greater Victoria region from October 1992 to June 1993.

The booklet is a guide to researching, planning, and delivering PD workshops. A "Planning Process" section documents steps involved, such as how to conduct a needs

assessment, arrange fees and honorariums, prepare guidelines and evaluations and follow up with presenters. The report also describes each of the eight workshops, which were on topics such as learning disabilities, plain language and hands-on publishing. Workshop handouts and comments from participants are included.

For further information, contact:

Vicky Austin, Program Assistant
Project Literacy Victoria
830 E Pembroke Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8T 1H9
Phone: 381-3755
Fax: 381-4911

Provincial Learner's Conference 1993

This report highlights an event that brought learners together from around B.C. at a three day conference in June 1993.

The report is a record of the activities and workshops at the "Provincial Learners Conference 1993," which had as its theme, "Stepping Out Together: Building a Circle of Caring." The conference was a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project, partnered by Vancouver Community College and Literacy B.C. It took place on June 15 - 18, at Cultus Lake, B.C.

104 people, representing 15 college regions in B.C.,

participated in workshops such as, "How to speak out and not be afraid," "Navigating through the nineties," and "How to make literacy an election issue." The 41-page report is illustrated with black-and-white photographs of the activities and the participants.

The report is available (while supplies last) from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

Conducting Needs Assessment for Adult Literacy Programming

Seven of B.C.'s literacy cost-shared projects in 1992/93 involved a literacy needs assessment component. This report, sponsored by the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development, describes the methods used by these projects and is intended as a resource for other groups undertaking their own needs assessments.

The report includes the surveys and questionnaires used by each project. These were targeted at individuals, households, business, industry, and literacy program providers.

The report is available from:

Marketing Department
Open Learning Agency
4355 Mathissi Place
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 4S8
Phone: 1-800-663-1653
Order No. VA0145 ☐

A Law for Legal Plain Language?

The Executive Director of the former Plain Language Institute (PLI) of B.C., has submitted a paper to the Attorney General of B.C. arguing that B.C. needs a plain language law.

The author, Phil Knight says, "When the PLI was established in 1990, we began to question whether this province needs a law to goad the people who write legal documents. This set of papers lays out our findings from several studies, and my personal conclusion that we need a law aimed at improving the quality of legal writing."

The paper is called, *So people can understand: A proposal for a law to improve legal writing*. It is accompanied by two background papers:

❖ *Volume II - Legislating the use of plain language.*

❖ *Volume III - Legislating plain language background data.*

The paper was submitted to the Attorney General, the Honourable Colin Gabelmann in October 1993. Copies of the report have also been distributed to: all provincial MLA's; the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, and the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal; all community newspapers in B.C.;

justice organizations; and selected community groups.

The Plain Language Institute, funded by the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General and the Law Foundation of B.C., was established in 1990 to promote plain language in law, government and business. Knight was Executive Director of the PLI from 1990 to its closure in March 1993. He is currently the Program Director of the Plain Language Office, situated in the Ministry of Government Services.

The report is available (at no charge) on request from:

Phil Knight, Program Director
Plain Language Office
Ministry of Government Services
1123 - 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 1T2
Phone: 660-2160
Fax: 660-2162 ☐

Advocates for Plain Language Reunite

The Plain Language Working Group (PLWG) -- a networking and advocacy group for people interested in the plain language field -- has resumed meeting.

The PLWG grew out of the Plain Language Institute (PLI) of B.C. (see preceding story). As part of its mandate, the PLI offered working group sessions

which were designed to keep the public informed of the role and function of plain language in the community, and provide information on the latest developments in the field. The final PLI working group session in the Lower Mainland took place on March 23, 1993.

Since then, the new PLWG has met twice, in October and November of this year.

Wendy Putman, Co-chair, Plain Language Working Group, says the new members "are in the process of rebuilding" the old working group. Plans at present include organizing a plain language workshop, possibly in January 1994. Putman says the PLWG "is not restricted to plain language practitioners. Anyone interested in the field is welcome to attend."

The next meeting will be held:

**Tuesday, December 14
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
People's Law School
150 - 900 Howe Street
Vancouver**

For further information, contact:

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Legal Services Society of B.C.
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Fax: 660-4420 ☐